SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

The Loc Mieu (Quang Tri) enclave dismantled

The right of self-defence belongs to the Vietnamese people

(April 30, 1972 Statement of RSVN Foreign Ministry)

The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of South Viet Nam on April 30 issued a statement regarding US president Nixon's April 26 speech.

The statement reads in full as follows:

IN face of the heavy setbacks in both North and South Viet Nam, in Cambodia and Laos and strong condemnation from public opinion in the world and in the United States, on April 26, 1972 US president Nixon had to declare the resumption of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and the withdrawal of more US troops from South Viet Nam. However, he has still resorted to fallacious allegation to plea for the US stubborn design of aggression and frenzied acts of war escalation in Viet Nam and Indochina while preparing to undertake new and more serious military adventures.

Everyone knows that US president Nixon, since he came into office, has refused to carry out his promises to promptly end the war, instead prolonged and intensified the war of aggression in South Viet Nam through the extremely brutal and perfidious policy of "Vietnamization of the war" and expanded the war to the whole of Indochina. While mobilizing a large number of warships and B.52 strategic bombers never seen before to step up the war of aggression in South Viet Nam to the fiercest stage, escalate the brutal air attacks against North Viet Nam including Hanoi capital and Haiphong port and arrogantly sabotage the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, US president Nixon brazenly rehashed his odious allegations about "North Viet Nam's aggression against South Viet Nam," using it as a pretext to intensify the war in both zones of Viet Nam and keep the "commitments" of defending the rotten Nguyen Van Thieu puppet administration which is on the brink of total collapse. Nixon arrogantly threatened to continue intensifying air and naval attacks against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Obviously, this is the allegation of a pirate who makes black white, distorts the South Vietnamese people's just fight under the leadership of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, and compel the Vietnamese people to give up their sacred right to fight for self-defence.

Being forced to resume the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and declare to withdraw more US troops from South Viet Nam, US president Nixon has tirelessly clamoured about his "good will" and boasted of the results of the "Vietnamization" of the war and the reduction of US "involvement in the war" in Viet Nam and Indochina. But he still clings to his "eight-point" plan which means the continuation of "Vietnamisation" of the war and the domination of South Viet Nam with US neo-colonialism. While feverishly intensifying US air and naval forces, stepping up the war to an extremely fierce level, he announced to pull out 20,000 more US troops with in two months in a bid to fool public opinion, but this perfidious move of US president Nixon can certainly deceive nobody.

The honourable way for the United States to get out the war of aggression in Viet Nam which has caused many losses in lives and property is that the US must end its aggression, the "Vietnamization" of the war, the air and naval war and all other military acts, and stop backing the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet administration. It is the way expounded in the RSVN PRG's seven-point peace solution of which the two key points have been elaborated.

So long as the US imperialists invade Viet Nam, the South Vietnamese people together with their countrymen throughout the country, continue their fight to sweep away all the aggressors from their country. This is the sacred and inviolable right of self-defence of the Vietnamese people and of all people in the world. No insolent threat, no brutal force, no perfidious move of the US imperialists can save them from total failure.

The South Vietnamese people and the RSVN PRG completely agree with the stand expounded in the April 29, 1972 statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and are determined to deal due punishing blows at the US aggressors and their henchmen whenever they touch on the North.

Responding to the April 15, 1972 appeal of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam the Vietnamese people together with the entire people are determined to overcome all sacrifices and hardships, dash forward in the impetus of victories, frustrate the "Vietnamization of the war" policy, liberate the South, defend the North, advance to the peaceful reunification of the country; and shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal Cambodian and Lao peoples, wipe all the US aggressors out of the Indochinese peninsula.

Perfidy and cruelty

FACED with disastrous failures on South Viet Nam and other Indochinese battlefields, together with compounded difficulties at home and abroad, Nixon has been compelled to pull US expeditionary troops gradually out of South Viet Nam. Obstinate and bellicose by nature, the US President however is bent on intensifying the aggressive war by carrying out his "Vietnamization" of the war with the "Puppet troops + US logistics and air and naval forces" formula.

The South Vietnamese people's Resistance has been going from one victory to another while the puppet troops have proved themselves incapable of satisfying Nixon's ambitions. Hence US air and naval power has been used alongside the remaining American GIs on the South Viet Nam battlefield as a prop for the puppet troops to prosecute the US war of aggression. While phasing out US ground troops, Nixon has assigned a major part of combat role to the US air force and navy, and applied to the South Viet Nam battlefield a new array and and utilization of forces to implement his reactionary doctrine known as the Nixon doctrine.

The puppet army has been beefed up, particularly in air power. Nixon's ambitious goal is to build the puppet air force into one of the world's most powerful by 1974 or 1975. US Defence Department sources disclosed November 18, 1971 that the Nixon administration had turned over 10 air bases and more than 775 aircraft of different types to the puppet army. By mid-November 1971, the Saigon air force had 1,000 planes, as against 300 previously, or 42 squadrons with 47,000 men. Nixon is planning to raise the number to 1,300 by the end of 1972, or 51 squadrons with 52,000 men.

The Nixon administration has all along regarded the air force as its mainstay, its hope and its trumpcard in the aggressive war in South Viet Nam. According to the *US Globe* magazine of November 10, 1971, apart from increasing the puppet air force, the US has retained a large number of planes in South Viet Nam for an indefinite period and used 50 Thailand-based B.52's as well as 300 tactical aircraft in Thailand and the 7th Fleet to fly combat missions in South Viet Nam.

Since the beginning of this year, under the pretext of protecting American lives in South Viet Nam, Nixon has doubled the number of aircraft-carriers and B. 52's and dispatched to the embattled zone at least 150 more jets. In April this year, besides sending in an additional 7 destroyers and 2 cruisers, Nixon decided to dispatch 2 more aircraft-carriers, the *Midway* and the *Saratoga*, to Viet Nam waters, and added 20 more planes to the total of more than 100. He also brought back to Da Nang 2 F4 squadrons comprising 36 planes of the US First Marine Division which was pulled out of South Viet Nam in May, 1971. On April 10, 1972, *UPI* reported that in the past week, the US had dispatched another 180 aircraft to Indochina. Nixon further decided to re-establish "Dixie Station" off the South Viet Nam coast to conduct air raids around Saigon. He even put many air squadrons across the States on the alert, ready for a Viet Nam-bound flight.

Meanwhile, Nixon has ordered increased bombing attacks, even with B. 52's on densely populated areas in South Viet Nam. If from April to September 1971 the highest rate of daily B. 52 air missions was from 7 to 11, from the beginning of this year to April 16, the rate was from 12 to 20. If formerly each mission involved 3 giant bombers, the figure is now 6, then 9 and 12 (*UPI*, Apr. 8, 1972).

US air activity over North Viet Nam in the first 3 months of this year increased substantially compared with the first 10 months of 1971. B. 52's have raided many populated centres in Vinh, Thanh Hoa and even Haiphong port city (April. 16, 1972).

In the early months of 1972, US aircraft dumped thousands of tons of bombs on South Viet Nam. On April 12, 1972, in a night raid lasting less than 30 minutes, B. 52's rained more than 500 tons of bombs on rubber plantations in Eastern Nam Bo. US aircraft alone have turned vast green lands in South Viet Nam into deserts dotted with bomb craters.

In South Viet Nam, Nixon has used many new weapons capable of causing heavy destruction and casualties. The 15,000-pounders, the biggest kind of conventional bomb in US arsenals, have been dropped on areas of heavy population like the Mekong Delta. Nixon has also used bombs guided by laser beams, flechettes which shoot out thousands of plastic darts, the Rock eye bombs, a type of CBU, capable of causing heavy casualties in a wide radius, or steel pellet incendiary bombs which spread fragments and white phosphorous capable of devastating a vast area. US congressman Mike Gravel and many American scientists have denounced Nixon for his testing and production of new anti-personnel weapons for the massacre of the people of South Viet Nam and elsewhere in Indochina. Pacific News Service has carried an article by correspondent Rasen who notes that as American troops are being gradually withdrawn from Indochina, the presence of US genocidal technology has increased.

Nixon's 3 years of office are 3 years of war intensification playing havoc among the people of both South and North Viet Nam. A part of the rich and beautiful land of Viet Nam, the South has been turned into a desolate zone with millions of wounds which could not be healed easily in a matter of years. At present, the bomb tonnage used by the Pentagon every 3 days in South Viet Nam has a blast power greater than the A-bomb it dropped on Hiroshima. On a monthly average, the US has dropped on South Viet Nam a bomb tonnage equal to 10 US A-bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Nixon's air war is being stepped up in terms of the forces involved, the intensity of its activity, the bomb tonnage and the destructive power of the ordinance. It is becoming an electronic war. Today, the US air force does not simply play a support role as has been claimed repeatedly by Nixon. It is operating as a strategic force and, together with the puppet troops, has taken over the combat role from the withdrawing US ground troops. US air and naval units also are being used as shock force in strikes against the liberated areas and in "sweeps" conducted by the puppet troops.

Nixon's stepped-up air war is a typical aspect of the "Vietnamized war." The American people and the world's people should not be fooled by Nixon's troop pullout trick. It is true that Nixon has reduced the US troop strength in South Viet Nam, but the war is continuing with a new, more dangerous and more rash formula. By conducting his air war, Nixon has been perpetrating more crimes against the people of Viet Nam and other Indochinese countries.

Nixon's perfidious manoeuvres, however, are being exposed by the people of Viet Nam and the world at large, including American progressives. The US air war is being carried out at a moment when the balance of forces between the Vietnamese people and the US aggressors has changed visibly. The Vietnamese people are winning and the US aggressors and their valets are losing. The Vietnamese people are now in an advantageous and upgrading position. The US-puppets now find themselves in a difficult and downgrading position, Nixon's frantic efforts to step up US air and naval actions can in no way prevent the tragic doom of both the aggressors and the traitors.

NGUYEN QUANG

in the cities

. The Secretary General of the "Federation of US House Helps" has recently sent, on behalf of over 2,000 women-workers, a letter demanding that the commander of the special unit of the US Command in Saigon punish an American sergeant for having abused some of them. He made clear that if this demand was not met, all the workers would take a firm action.

At the same time, 200 labourers at the USAID also walked out for a 10 per cent wage increase and against indiscriminate dismissal of workers.

• A Saigon "M. P." has denounced the quisling administration in Quang Ngai for misusing their authority to plunder the people. They brazenly arrested women, looted the people's belongings, and exacted money from civilians accused of being "communists." They also held up cars and boats to rob the passengers.

• 17 peace and progressive organizations, including the "Popular Front for Peace," the Saigon General Union of Students, issued on April 13 a joint declaration pressing for Thieu's immediate resignation and US return to the Paris Conference to reach a fair solution to the Viet Nam issue.

• In their terror against the students and pupils' movement and at the same time in execution of their scheme to fill the gaps caused by heavy combat casualties, the "mobilization" service of the Saigon Defence Ministry ordered the impress of all students and pupils without the baccalaureat degree and from 18 years of age upwards.

• Representatives of Saigon war invalids, from various provinces of Central Trung Bo streamed to Saigon on April 5 and gathered in front of the Saigon "General Political Department" and "War Veterans' Ministry" to castigate Thieu's heartlessness, leaving the war invalids in the lurch, refusal to pay them allowances, which aggravated their destitution.

• Representatives of more than 10,000 people living along the Saigon — Thu Duc road have signed a petition demanding the cancellation of Thieu's order to pull down their houses built on both sides of this road. The people founded a committee of action representing the concerned 2,000 families to defend their houses and other property. The protesters pointed out that the place had formerly been a swampy area, transformed by several years' of their exertions into locations and described the house removal order of the Thieu clique as a ruthless move.

• In the first 10 days of April alone, the Saigon authorities confiscated 59 dailies because the latter had published news on PLAF tremendous successes on the South Viet Nam battlefields. The paper *Dien Tin* (Express) had all its numbers banned in the said period. Besides, the paper *Tin Sang* (Morning News) and 7 other papers had to pay a total of 2,850,000 piastres in fines.

• On April, 10, the US-Thieu clique brought a group of 10 Saigonese students and school pupils to the "field military court." The defendants turned the court into a forum to charge the corrupt and tyrannical US-Thieu regime and expose its crackdown on the student movement. They shouted: "Down with the trial!" and "Long live the spirit of the students' and school pupils' struggle!" Saigon magistrates ordered military police and cruel thugs to charge on the defendants and take the latter to Chi Hoa jail. However this move could not silence the angry shouts.

• On April 14, over 2,000 school pupils and other citizens of Da Nang city took to the streets in a demonstration against impressing all 15-50 aged persons in "popular defence" organization and forcing them to fulfil guard duty. The demonstrators shouted anti-US-Thieu slogans and denounced the US-Thieu move of using people as cannon-fodder.

• On April 7, a sit-in of Van Hanh university students decided to step up the struggle for the release of the arrested students and school pupils, and against policing of students and forcible drafting of people into "popular defence" forces. The participants called on the entire student body to stand up and join in the struggle, refuse to receive "popular defence" identity cards, oppose terror and repression and demand freedom of study.

• Recently, almost all unions affiliated to the 3 major Saigon labour organizations simultaneously launched a new drive for higher wages to meet soaring prices. The municipal Federation of Trade Unions sent an urgent letter to the Labour General Inspector of the Saigon administration, pointing out that Thieu's new economic measures had badly affected the living standards of workers and private employees. The letter demands that the Thieu regime re-adjust family allowances to help workers offset rising cost of living.

• Saigon people from all walks of life have come out strongly against an order forcing persons between 15 and 50 to join "popular defence" units. To protest, they refuse to join this organization and resist violently cruel agents who ask for 1,000 piastres as fees for "popular defence" identity cards. Many members of the puppet administration have also opposed this absurd and brutal measure.

THE THIEF WHO CRIES "Stop Thief"

A Vietnamese popular saying stigmatizes the robber who beats the alarm tomtom to take the people in. In foreign idioms, the same character is referred to as the thief who cries "Stop Thief!"

It was exactly what Mr Richard Milhous Nixon did in his 26 and 30 April televized addresses, when he charged our North Vietnamese fellow-countrymen with an "open and unprovoked aggression against the territory of their neighbours," "across an international demarcation line."

The accusation was no novelty. It had been used by Lyndon Johnson in his Hopskin University (Baltimore) speech in April 1965 to excuse the commitment of the US Expeditionary Corps to South Viet Nam. Various representatives of the US to the Paris Conference, from Averell Harriman through Cabot Lodge and David Bruce to William Porter, had reiterated it ad nauseam.

It is gratuitous and unacceptable. It is the more so when levelled by the incumbent president of the US.

Mr Nixon may know very little about the history of Viet Nam. He may have no idea of our people always being one and indivisible for thousands of years and of Hanoi becoming the capital of the Vietnamese kingdom under the Ly dynasty in 1010, i.e. 482 years before Christopher Columbus left Palos with his three caravels on his voyage to discover America. But it is inconceivable that he should not remember the policy of President Eisenhower to whom he was Vice-President from 1953 to 1960, regarding Viet Nam and Indochina and his own part in the US intervention in the French dirty war of colonial reconquest. In his issue number 133 of January 31, 1972, *South Viet Nam in Struggle* published a photo of Nixon inspecting the battlefield of Cho Ra, Ninh Binh, North Viet Nam. It was in 1953. There was at that time no aggression by North Viet Nam against South Viet Nam or the other way round, but a full-fledged French aggression, backed by the US, aimed at the reconquest of Viet Nam whose independence had been proclaimed on September 2, 1945.

As a political countermove to the whole Vietnamese people's resistance, led by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam under President Ho Chi Minh, the French "recognized" a puppet Viet Nam State headed by ex-emperor Bao Dai on September 30, 1949. It was eventually "recognized" by the US and other countries in the US-French camp. It was not at all confined to South Viet Nam: it claimed to involve all Viet Nam.

In 1954, Mr Nixon followed with keen interest the Dien Bien Phu battle and supported the Vautour plan which advocated the bombing with B-29's, flying fortresses of the time, based in the Philippines, of the Vietnamese people's army and its rears. Then came the Geneva Conference which, despite US attempts to scuttle it, ended with the July 20 accords and the July 21, 1954 Final Declaration officially recognizing the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia and strictly banning all foreign interference in their internal affairs. A provisional military demarcation line drawn on the 17th parallel separated the assembly zones of the belligerent forces: the Vietnamese People's Army north, and the French and satellite forces south in the line. The Geneva Conference Final Declaration made it clear in its point 6 that "*the military demarcation line is provisional and should not in an way be interpreted as constituting a political or territorial boundary.*" In point 7 the Conference declared that for the "*settlement of political problems, effected on the basis of respect for the principles of independence, unity and territorial integrity...*" "*general elections shall be held in July 1956.*

...Consultation will be held on this subject between the competent representative authorities of the two zones from 20 July onward."

Everyone is aware and the Pentagon secret papers have confirmed who has violated the 1954 agreements: it was Eisenhower who was afraid that 80 % of the electorate should vote for unity in the teeth of the divisive manoeuvres of the Ngo Dinh Diem rule installed by the US as government of the puppet state of Viet Nam under Bao Dai, then of the self-styled Republic of Viet Nam, rid of the playboy emperor. Mr Nixon, then Vice-President of the US, knew well of the connection of Ngo Dinh Diem with the CIA and of the creation ex-nihilo of a separate state south of the 17th parallel with US weapons, advisors and dollars.

Years rolled by. US military intervention became direct aggression with a half-million troop build-up; the "special war" turned into a "limited war," accompanied by a furious war of destruction against the DRVN. The NFL was founded on December 20, 1960 and since then our PLAF have not ceased strengthening and growing more battle-tested, whose increasing successes against US, satellite and Saigon troops reached a high in the wide-spread offensives and uprisings of Tet 1968.

Trounced both in North and South Viet Nam, Johnson had to bow out of the presidential race and Nixon was elected in 1968 on the formal pledge to the voters to end the criminal war within 6 months.

Once ensconced in the White House, instead of stopping the aggression, Nixon "Vietnamized" it by beefing up the Saigon army and using it as substitute for US ground troops, thereby "changing the complexion of the corpses." The word "Vietnamization" is a deception because the actual conduct of the war is supplied by the Yankees. US Air Force is staying behind with the units of the 7th Fleet to provide support for the Saigon soldiery under the strategic formula: Saigon soldiers+US fire support. The revamped mercenary force was so completely "Vietnamized" that Nixon deployed it against Cambodia in May 1970 and against South Laos in February 1971. Meanwhile, US planes reconnoitred the airspace of the DRVN and regularly struck at population centres north of the 17th parallel.

Who is the aggressor, if not Mr Nixon himself? "Vietnamization" has proved to be the continuation and extension of the aggression and has been duly denounced as an international crime against peace by the Moscow Symposium of Jurists from the Socialist Countries in October 1971, and by the Algiers Second International Conference of Jurists on Indochina in November 1971.

In "Vietnamizing" the war, Mr Nixon wants also to "Vietnamize," i.e. to sabotage, the peace negotiations. It was on his specific instructions that the US delegation suspended the Paris Conference on March 23, 1972. Two days later, the US President announced a new 8-point peace plan, proposing the withdrawal of all US forces six months after the signing of an eventual agreement (instead of a fixed deadline as urged by world and American opinion in accord with the Vietnamese) and presidential elections to be organized by the Saigon regime under the provisions of its anti-democratic and fascist 1967 Constitution, the incumbent "President" Nguyen Van Thieu handing in his resignation only one month before election day.

It was essentially a request to the Vietnamese Resistance to capitulate to the quisling rule in exchange for a voting paper and participation in elections which would be surely rigged. It was concurrently an ultimatum because the US delegation would not return to the bargaining table unless the adverse parties, the SVNR PRG and the DRVN, evinced, by Nixonian standards, the desire to negotiate seriously.

As a reply to such an insolent challenge, our PLAF mounted a wave of withering attacks on many fronts in South Viet Nam. The peasants penned up in strategic hamlets now dubbed "New Life" hamlets rose up en masse. Saigon's "people's self-defence" and local militia units defected with lock, stock, and barrel. Its regular army units such as the 56th Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division, mutinied and went over to the patriots' side and were given a fraternal reception, in accordance with the PRG ten-point policy regarding the sons of our own people drafted by force into the Saigon army.

Dull would he be of soul who could see in those operations and upheavals of the South Vietnamese an "aggression from the North" directed against its "neighbours."

Mr Nixon displays crass ignorance or utter contempt of international law when denying the Vietnamese their right to fight for the liberation of their fatherland, in any place on their national territory, occupied by the foreign aggressor and his hirelings.

On the other hand, he shows complete cynicism when alleging a so-called tacit understanding between Mr Johnson who has contradicted it in his memoirs and the Government of the DRVN who could never, ever, tacitly, allow US spy planes to tresspass its airspace.

The absurd "aggression from the North" is only a transparent move to minimize the gains of our PLAF and people and justify the fresh Nixonian escalation against North Viet Nam, the furious air raids on civilian population and the renewed piratic deeds against Soviet and other cargo ships loaded with aid goods from fraternal countries for the Vietnamese.

An accusation uttered by a pirate cannot hold water and make him an honest man. Facts themselves give the lie to Mr Nixon and brand him as he deserves. One can refer again to his April 26, 1972 television talk, in which there was also a lot of pi jaw about US world leadership. He who dreams of world leadership and aspires to become an international gendarme at a time when the nations are in the throes of economic and political liberation movements, cannot but be an enemy of peace and challenger of the peoples' fundamental national rights and right to self-determination, which are the cornerstone of contemporary international law.

XUAN KHANH

LIBERATION FORCES' HARD BLOWS AND BIG GAINS

* **An Loc provincial capital captured**
* **Enemy artillery sites in the High Plateaux erased**
* **Widespread uprisings in Binh Dinh province**

FOLLOWING the violent offensives which rocked all the US-Saigon defence lines in the first 15 days of April, the South Viet Nam people and liberation armed forces maintain and develop their uprisings and attacks everywhere, score fresh feats-of-arms, overwhelming the enemy on all South Viet Nam battlefields. Fighting is raging, its hot blast being Eastern Nam Bo, along Highway 13 after the defence line north of Saigon in Binh Long-Tay Ninh area had been breached and shattered by big portion.

After the fall of An Loc provincial capital of Binh Long into the hands of the liberation forces on April 15, at 13:00 hours the US-Saigon Command hurriedly dispatched relief forces to the area; meanwhile their aircraft, mostly American B-52 strategic bombers furiously bombed the newly liberated provincial capital and its surroundings. The Saigon 1st paratroop brigade and the 81st commando battalion were fiercely intercepted right after their landing at a place nearly 2 miles south-east of the provincial capital. The brigade CP was heavily mortared; two of its battalions were seriously decimated after being encircled and attacked from all directions for three days. In the afternoon of April 19, 4 enemy counter-offensives were thwarted and the CP of the paratroops brigade shattered; the remnants fled in panic. A rescue column coming from the south was intercepted and suffered heavy casualties. The 33rd Regiment, 21st Division sent from the Mekong Delta to the rescue of the 5th Division was put out of combat and met with the same fate as the Saigon 1st Paratroop Brigade; as a result over 600 adverse troops were wiped out and some 50 tanks and armoured cars destroyed. Reporting on the desperate situation of the Saigon relief forces in the area south of Chon Thanh township, *AFP* said: "The communist forces continued tightening their noose around Chon Thanh. Helicopters could not land and supplies had to be parachuted; but most of the supplied food, ammunition and drinking water fell into the communists' hands."

While the Saigon troops were critically pinned down on Highway 13, Dau Tieng, one of the enemy important military positions in the area came under constant pressure from the PLAF. "The South Viet Nam (Saigon) infantry evacuated the regimental base of the 18th Division to dig in on the defence perimeter of Dau Tieng which was threatened," *UPI* reported on April 22. "But this troops concentration tactics did not work. In less than 24 hours, Dau Tieng township was captured by the communists," *AP* announced on April 23.

The US-Saigon command hastily shifted part of their paratroop forces stationed in the High Plateaux to the vicinity of Saigon to reinforce its defence, for there were "signs that the communist forces are advancing toward Saigon" (AFP, April 22). Even though, Thieu felt uneasy, he rashly brought a number of ranger units positioned around Hue city to reinforce the defence of Saigon," (*UPI* April 23), for his boss had ceaselessly affirmed that "Saigon is the principal target of the communists" (*UPI*, April 23).

While the US-Thieu tried hard to defend their big sanctuary, our people and liberation forces dealt reeling blows at the enemy on the High Plateaux front. Strategic Highways 14 and 19 were cut off, and littered with hundreds of enemy wrecked military vehicles. The Saigon troops stationed in Kontum were driven into a very bad fix. "The communists have launched a series of offensives," *AP* reported on April 22. "They have cut off the principal communication line between Kontum and Pleiku provincial capitals. 3 ranger battalions have been helilifted by the US command from Quang Tri to the High Plateaux to the rescue of the battered troops here."

Following up their successes on this front in the first half of this month, the liberation armed forces relentlessly assaulted enemy encampments and reinforcements sent in from different areas. The High Plateaux people and PLAF held the enemy under constant harassment, thus frustrating their hill top enclave tactics. In a single offensive, three important bases close to Dakto were captured by the PLAF. *AFP* on April 23 reported that three bases defending Kontum and Pleiku were taken within 48 hours. Four outposts on the hills overlooking the valleys of Dakto, Tan Canh and Ben Het were lost. So Saigon outer defence line near the western border considered as "secure" by C. Abrams was chopped up at a vital section. The Saigon 45th Regiment was knocked out. This has worsened the predicament of the enemy in the High Plateaux. Two paratroop brigades sent in from Saigon repeatedly sustained violent onsets while digging in or engaged in rescue missions.

In close co-ordination with the offensives of the liberation main forces, the local people and regional forces in Nam Bo (the Mekong Delta) and in Trung Bo have risen up, smashed the enemy coercive machine and seriously frustrated their "pacification" plan. On the night of April 16, the people and liberation forces in the plains of Binh Dinh province scored an outstanding feat-of-arms. With their deep thrust tactics, the regional forces assaulted the HQ, artillery sites and all the encampments of the 40th Regiment, Saigon 22nd Division. After 4 hours of fighting, the PLAF in co-ordination with the local people wiped out completely one artillery battalion, one transport battalion, one armoured squadron and six battalions of regular troops and "civil guards," a regimental command and seized control of almost the whole of Hoai Nhon district. So in 10 days ending April 19, the people and liberation forces in Binh Dinh province chalked up three outstanding achievements:

— wiping out and disintegrating entirely a seasoned Saigon multi-battalion unit comprising 4 infantry battions and one armoured squadron, in populated area of the plains;

— completely liberating Hoai An district, the first district in the densely populated coastal area;

— launching two successive offensives on the enemy military subsector in Tam Quan township and bases of the Saigon main force in Hoai Nhon district, thus expanding the liberated areas linking the two districts Hoai An and Hai Nhon.

The spokesman of the Saigon command admitted that "the situation in Binh Dinh province is the worst"; the government troops (Saigon troops) fled in panic before the Viet Cong offensives, *AP* reported on April 19 and 20.

The people and liberation forces in the plains have recorded victory after victory in their anti-"pacification" fight. The new feat-of-arms of the people and PLAF in Binh Dinh province have contributed notably to the new stage of offensives and uprisings of the entire people and liberation armed forces in South Viet Nam to seize complete and lasting power.

The US and its quislings are being defeated everywhere. They are facing "a worsening military situation which has lasted 22 days," reported *AFP* on April 23. The South Viet Nam people and PLAF are dashing forward for more gains.

US tank captured

The brigade CP of puppet troops at Doc Mieu (Quang Tri) set ablaze by PLAF artillery

A recoilless gunner-team of the PLAF which contributed notably to the big gains in Quang Tri

"Vietnamization" put to new tests

SINCE their lamentable rout in Operation Lam Son 719 in Southern Laos (early 1971), Saigon forces have been obviously on the decline, so have their combat capacity and their resistance to the shattering blows of the liberation troops. Their withdrawal from the front lines in the Route 9-North Quang Tri area, and retreat from the An Loc-Loc Ninh front north of Saigon in the first days of April, once again clearly showed how the Saigon army — the "backbone" of Washington's "Vietnamization" of the war — was really capable of.

If in Southern Laos, Saigon crack troops were heatly crushed because, as often alleged, they had to operate beyond their frontiers, on a distant and unfavourable terrain and inside vulnerable field defence works, in North Quang Tri and north of Saigon they did confront their adversary on a familiar ground, with a strong system of entrenched camps and a dense fire support. However, in two weeks, on the latter two areas over 10,000 mercenaries were put out of action against 15,000 (1,000 captured) in Southern Laos after 48 days and nights of tough fighting. If on the latter front the enemy could argue their men had been deployed into a mountain and forest terrain where supply and transport were difficult, on the former battlefield, on the contrary, they could benefit from a ready battle array with the occupation of key heights, from land and sea communication facilities which gave them high mobility, and from any time ready reinforcements. Especially so in North Quang Tri where 7th Fleet aircraft-carriers and destroyers were standing by not far away for rescue actions.

Clearly, the Saigon forces got drubbed while in most favourable combat conditions for their own defence. Their Laos tragedy has been repeated right in South Viet Nam. This was inevitable because of their weaking notwithstanding shots in the arms given by the US, and because of their increasingly passive posture. As the Laos rout was taking place last year, Richard Nixon affirmed on TV that the Saigon army could cope 1 to 1 with its opponent inside South Viet Nam borders. One year later, *AP* of April 5 reported, Washington was reeling under the weight of the "communists" punches while fighting was still going on.

The recent reverses of the client army have been the inevitable results of its defensive strategy. Nixon and his fire-eating aides might be surprised by the formidable assaults of the South Viet Nam people and PLAF and by the Saigon mercenaries' rapid disintegration. It is a matter of course, for he who at war holds the initiative of operations can take his opponent by surprise no matter how long in advance the latter's contingency plans may be prepared.

When Nixon still had a large expeditionary force, he could rely on it to launch "preemptive" operations although in doing so he acted in a passive way. Since US-Saigon setbacks in the Route 9-Southern Laos theatre, American and mercenary troops have no longer been in a position to mount such large-scale actions. Instead, they have had to fall back on the defensive, always in fear of eventual blows from their adversary everywhere because their strategic mobile forces are spread thin, which has been particularly apparent from the beginning of the PLAF offensives in early April. Before they tried to improve the situation upnorth where their defence line had collapsed, a large bit was carved down south in Binh Long province, Eastern Nam Bo, and as they were busy fighting a fire there, the Western Plateaux were already threatened from all sides (*AFP*, April 6). Then to the Western Plateaux and Binh Long the US-Saigon command dispatched their last strategic reserves, even Division 21 and Division 18 which had been kept as "territorial forces" in the Mekong Delta and south-east of Saigon. Thus "priority pacification areas" became exposed and a wave of offensives and uprisings swept the plains of Nam Bo and Trung Bo. Large bits of the Saigon army and administration were shattered and extensive areas liberated. The Saigon army battered and spread thin in all theatres, and its reserves being limited, the enemy is under heavy pressure on all fronts.

Nixon has played his trumpcard — the Air Force — to counter the people and the liberation armed forces of South Viet Nam in a bid to save his client army. At the same time his strikes at North Viet Nam were to inflate the morale of the mercenary troops. Hence this paradox from strategic point of view: while Saigon ground troops shrink from the fighting and cluster around definite points, or "disperse" according to "mobile tactics," the US Air Force and Navy have to play the role of shock troops. The result is that on dangerous theatres where the PLAF attack forcefully and intensively, not only the mercenaries who call for support, but the US Air Force itself were whirled into a merry-go-round. *AP* bluntly says that the number of aeroplanes thrown into the battle from aircraft-carriers, from bases in Thailand and South Viet Nam, is just a little less than half of the strength, used at the height of the war in 1968. So much so that all aircraft are concentrated on the central and northern fronts, not enough tactical and supply-transport planes, troop-carrying helicopters and B-52 bombers are left for the 3rd Military Area down south (*UPI*, April 6).

Of all the tests Nixon's "Vietnamization" has been put to over the last three years, this is the thoroughest. Saigon troops are enjoying the full support of the US Air Force and fire power. Military activities in the last few weeks described by Western military observers as "the moment of truth" for Saigon—which is 'the moment of truth for 'Vietnamization' as well—have upset Nixon's calculations and exhibited the Saigon army's foibles. New challenges to "Vietnamization" have been shaping up.

THE HIGHER THE ESCALATION, THE HEAVIER THE FALL

TO get out of the South Viet Nam quagmire, Nixon has made another brazen war escalation against the DRVN. He and the men in the Pentagon have been incessantly indulging in a lot of sabre rattling. US Defence Secretary M. Laird said at a press conference that "the US will continue to bomb North Viet Nam and abstain from negotiating with it; we will maintain a necessary strength to protect our troops" (*AFP*, April 7). He had the cheek to confirm that the US was bombarding the southern part of the DMZ, the DMZ itself and the northern part of the DMZ (*Reuter*, April 7); on April 8, the Press Secretary of the White House declared that the bombing area in North Viet Nam could be expanded and include the port of Haiphong.

Coupled with that overbearing attitude of an aggressor, the US committed to the Bac Bo Gulf more aircraft-carriers and Nixon himself gave orders to dispatch an additional number of B-52s to the Indochina battlefield (*AFP*, April 4).

With a reinforced naval and air force, the US imperialists have been mounting frantic bombings and strafings deep in the territory of the DRVN. The warships of the 7th Fleet have been shelling day and night the coastal areas of the southern provinces of the DRVN and Do Son (near Haiphong). Especially on the night of April 15 and the following day, on Nixon's orders, US warships and hundreds of warplanes, including B-52s, struck at Haiphong port and inside Hanoi with an unheard-of savagery. Heavily populated areas were attacked with hundreds of civilian casualties, mostly oldagers, women and children.

Nixon went to the length of threatening that should the South Viet Nam PLAF attacks continue, he would put no limit to his bombing against North Viet Nam.

His furious reaction was that of a most aggressive war maniac. Despite strong waves of protest now sweeping all over the US and the world, he is going on with his war escalation.

However, his indiscriminate air raids on North Viet Nam do not show his strength, on the contrary they are a blind reaction to save the complete bankruptcy of "Vietnamization."

They are obviously the acknowledgement of his desperate military situation in South Viet Nam and Indochina.

The electrifying advances in the last fornight of the patriotic forces at Quang Tri, Loc Ninh, Eastern Nam Bo, Binh Dinh, the Western Highlands and the Mekong Delta together with the success achieved southeast of Phnom Penh by the Cambodian patriots and the brother Lao people have been smarting ripostes to the Pentagon warmongers.

In the North, the US imperialists are hard hit as they climb higher in their escalation. Following the exploits achieved by Quang Binh, Vinh Linh, Nghe An and Thanh Hoa, in one day Hanoi and Haiphong bagged 15 planes and Quang Binh the 3,500th US aircraft, which was a relevant answer to the US predatory acts. More and more of the so-called super-fortresses (B-52) have been shot down in Vinh Linh, Thanh Hoa and Haiphong. The US aggressors cannot hope to end their desperate predicament in South Viet Nam by intimidating our people with their air and naval bombardments on the North. No amount of hardware can shake the iron will of 20 million northern people to help their 17 million kith and kin in the South.

"For each blow at the North the US will receive from the South 5 or 10," is the solemn pledge taken by our southern fellow countrymen. Nixon and his ilk will court heavier setbacks if they hit at the North. For the sake of the liberation of South Viet Nam, the defence of the North and eventual reunification of the country the Southern people will persevere in their resistance for national salvation and pool their efforts with their Northern kindred to repel US aggression. The North is part and parcel of Viet Nam and the large rear base of the whole country.

Blasting a "Strostofort" in Five Minutes

US jet in flames, hit by missile in Haiphong

2.15 hrs, April 24, first-degree alert. All officers and men of Unit 6th missile force battalion were in combat readiness.

The battalion command had decided to fight an excellent battle to avenge those in Hanoi capital and Haiphong port city who had just been massacred by the Yankees. From the first observation post, combat crew commander Nguyen Van Nhan reported having detected two enemy flights including a formation of B.52s at X. kilometres from the missile unit's position. Battalion commander Hoang Minh Tuc ordered to switch on the electronic counter-measure aircraft jamming. Teleguidance officer Nguyen Truong Xuan and the team of observers quickly caught the B.52 flight on their radar screen. Two ground-to-air missiles tore into the night and headed for the enemy planes. The missiles were well guided. But second later, the target disappeared.

Two minutes later, the first observation post reported sighting another flight of B.52s. Trieu Dinh Duyet, a flight chart marker, reported the targets at angle of departure X, and range at Y. Battalion commander Tuc gave order to his men to score a "kill" at altitude N. Mai Hong Tam, an officer of the command unit, reported "Everything ready! We're waiting for order!"

Battalion commander Tuc said "Switch on the detection apparatus. Track their position!" Teleguidance officer Nguyen Truong Xuan, a former rank and file from the 10th form of general education acting with pinpoint precision, quickly directed the detection waves on the enemy and caught the whole B.52 flight on the radar screen. He ordered:

"Give the angles of departure"!

Nguyen Van Nim, a member of the observation crew, reported:

"The enemy formation has fully entered our gun range."

Observers Pham Duc Liem and Pham Tien Tinh said at the same time:

"Everything O.K.!"

Battalion commander Tuc ordered:

"Two missiles at six seconds' interval fire!"

The teleguidance officer gave the signal. All the three observers reported:

"All right!"

Nguyen Truong Xuan ordered:

"First missile, fire!"

"Second missile, fire!"

As he ordered, Xuan pressed the knobs. The officer of the command post reported:

"The missiles are on the right tracks!"

Battalion commander Tuc ordered:

"Stick to the targets."

Suddenly the teleguidance officer shouted aloud:

"The firt missile has exploded"!

"The second missile has exploded!"

The targets were wiped out.

The whole unit burst into a roaring applause.

The friendly units in the area who also took part in the battle shared the joy of the missile unit when they learnt from the command that a B.52 of the Yankees had been shattered to pieces.

the DRVN in brief

+ In the first 16 days of April 1972, the armed forces and people of Vinh Linh area, Quang Binh province, Vinh city, Thanh Hoa province and Hai Phong and Ha Noi cities, and the armed forces on Con Co Island achieved signal feats of arms: they shot down in all 50 aircraft including five B.52s and shot ablaze or damaged 14 warships of the US 7th Fleet.

By April 16, 1972, in all 3,496 US aircraft of different types had been shot down over North Viet Nam.

+ In strict execution of the order of the Viet Nam People's Army High Command, various artillery units are zealously accomplishing their fighting and build-up jobs and trying first of all to increase combat preparedness so as to confront and beat off US warship in defence of the country's coast line. These units have decided to fulfil their resolution calling for "all units to set off and all units to safely arrive at destination" and "for more successes and growing strength in the course of the fighting."

+ Unit Y. and Unit 2 of the People's Air Force are undergoing hard training to ensure success in fighting and to perform well combat support jobs. All-out efforts have been made to surpass all training targets. All pilots of Company 2, a unit which has twice won the title of "hero," have come forward for combat jobs in all circumstances.

NIXON'S WAR ESCALATION UNDER CROSS-FIRE

AFTER he had brazenly sabotaged the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and stepped up the aero-naval war against the Vietnamese people in both zones, on April 16 Nixon climbed another rung of his war escalation by targetting air strikes, even by B-52s, against the capital of Hanoi and the port of Haiphong in the DRVN. This act of war hysteria and the ensuing statements by the White House and the Pentagon have touched off strong waves of angry protest.

"Nixon, the murderer!", "US imperialism, get out of Viet Nam and Indochina!" and "End the aggressive war!", these angry shouts have been heard in all parts of the world. The US embassies in many countries have been subjected to bomb-attacks, stoned and ransacked. The US Information Office in Goterborg (Sweden) has been set on fire. Stormy protest mass rallies and demonstrations have taken place in Japan, the Philippines, Australia, India, Bangla Desh, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway and many socialist countries.

The Governments of Algeria, Chile, the People's Republic of Congo, the GDR, Hungary, Mongolia, Yugoslavia, Romania, the Korean Democratic People's Republic..., the Heads of State and State leaders of Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, the People's Republic of Congo, Cuba, Guinea, Syria, Sweden, Czechoslovakia..., diplomatic circles in Egypt, Albania, India, Poland, Norway, Mali, Tanzania..., parliamentarians in Britain, India, Finland, Sweden..., international and regional organisations like the International Organisation of Journalists, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the World Council of Peace, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the World Council of Churches, the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, the Asian-African-Latin American People's Solidarity Organization..., many political parties and national organizations, Support-Viet Nam Committees in many countries, the national liberation movements in Africa (Angola, Mozambique, West Africa, Zimbabwe, Azania...) have come out strongly against this new military adventure of the US imperialists and expressed their sympathy and support to the patriotic struggle of the Vietnamese people.

Particularly in the United States, Nixon's reckless move has added fuel to the anti-war flame of the American people. As part of the Spring Offensive, from April 17 to 23, rallies, demonstrations, marches, sit-ins and other forms of struggle erupted in many cities and campuses across the States; most typical of all were the big demonstrations held on April 22 in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Along with the powerful and resolute actions undertaken by the American progressive people, most Democrats and a number of Republicans in US Congress have lashed out against the war-seeking policy of the White House and the Pentagon and are working out measures aimed at checking the criminal moves of Nixon and Laird.

The whole of progressive mankind has pointed out that the extremely serious step of war escalation taken recently by Nixon "is an extremely barbarous crime of the US imperialists," "a gross infringement of the sovereignty of the DRVN," "a flouting of all human morality and conscience," "a sabotage of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam" and "a violation of the US pledge to cease all bombardments of North Viet Nam." The Cuban Foreign Minister has stressed that "never before has the bestial brutality of US imperialism exposed its disgusting and feeble feature as it has done in the recent extermination bombing of Hanoi and Hai phong. This repugnant attack on human conscience portends that their failure is drawing near."

With this new crime, "the US imperialists are dangerously aggravating tension in Indochina" (Mongolian Government), and may endanger world peace" (Indian Prime Minister). With this crime, "the Nixon administration has discarded itself its mask of sham peace, thus revealing its true aggressive and bellicose nature for the whole world to see. Anyhow, these are but desperate acts, which the US imperialists have made amid their losses and in their predicament in South Viet Nam" (Chairman of the Federal National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic). With this crime, they hope they can ward off further heavy and bitter defeats on the Indochinese battlefield, especially in South Viet Nam and continue with their "Nixon doctrine" and "Vietnamization" of the war plan (Lao Patriotic Front CC). They think that their bombing and naked threat can "break the heroic Vietnamese people's will to fight with weapons in hands to defend their dignity, honour, freedom and national independence, and impose on the latter a solution to the Viet Nam question conforming to the neo-colonialist goals of the US imperialists" (Mongolian Government).

The US imperialists, however, "need understand that no threat, no brutality and no massive bombing can shake the determination of the heroic Vietnamese people" (People's Republic of Congo Government).

"Sure, they can never prevent the Indochinese peoples from winning their well-deserved victory, because of their courage, their firmness and their determination to fight and to win, because of the ever increasing support of the whole of progressive mankind, and because of the many-sided assistance of the entire socialist camp. The time will come when we can see the US imperialists pull out of South-East Asia like a dog with its tail between its legs" (Deputy-Premier and Minister of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces).

Progressive mankind has reminded Nixon that the pressing need at present is for "the US to end all its acts of war against the DRVN, withdraw completely and unconditionally US and allied troops from this area, give up its 'Vietnamization' policy which only prolongs and aggravates the conflict and resume the Paris Conference on Viet Nam so as to attain a correct and lasting peace settlement on the basis of the 7-point proposal of July 1, 1971 and the 2-point elaboration of February 2, 1972 of the RSVN PRG" (Algerian Government). Nixon should take this wise course in order "to get the US out of the impasse Washington has voluntarily engaged in" (GDR Government).

The time has gone when the US imperialist aggressors can rule the roost. Nowadays, any mad action on their part can only bring them disastrous isolation and failure.

DINH BA

Southeastern defence front of Phnom Penh smashed

IN close co-ordination with the South Viet Nam people and liberation armed forces, the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces conducted new waves of attacks on Phnom Penh puppet troops on the Southeastern front and scored big victories.

According to *AKI* reports, at dawn on April 19, the Cambodian liberation forces in Svay Rieng province mounted violent assaults on four military positions of the Lon Nol puppet troops along Highway One, from Svay Rieng to South Viet Nam border, overrunning and capturing Prasot and Chipu bases, wiping out and taking prisoner 700 enemy, including one battalion and two companies, capturing a large quantity of weapons and seizing control of a 30-kilometre section of Highway One, from Svay Rieng to South Viet Nam border.

Along with these waves of offensives from April 18 to 21, the Cambodian liberation forces repeatedly intercepted and knocked out the bulk of the Lon Nol 58th Brigade stationed in Kompong Trabec township, capturing the brigade commander and many other officers, occupying the whole township and a series of positions along the strategic Highway One, thus driving the enemy into a very critical situation.

On April 22 the military spokesman of the Phnom Penh puppet regime admitted that "the situation is very serious; the communist forces occupied seven outposts and bases on a stretch of 60 kilometres on Highway One, from Neak Luong to the South Viet Nam border. Svay Rieng provincial capital, the only remaining position on this road is under siege," according to *AFP*. General Sray Mess of the Phnom Penh army also cried in panic that "they are in a very bad position." (*Reuter*).

With the Kompong Trabec victory and others on the Southeastern front, the Cambodian people and liberation forces smashed a complex of strongholds in an important township on Highway One, breaching a big chunk of the southeastern defence system of Phnom Penh, cutting off the strategic communication line between Saigon and Phnom Penh. Besides, the Cambodian liberation forces put out of combat big segments of the enemy live forces, and at the same time liberated a vast area of great strategic significance. These were a series of outstanding battles and splendid feats-of-arms achieved by the Cambodian liberation forces since after the counter-offensive campaign which shattered the Lon Nol army's "Chenla II" operation on Highway 6. They prove the rapid growth of the Cambodian liberation forces in conducting repeated attacks and in fighting large-scale battles. Previously, on Highway 6 the liberation forces had wiped out big forces of the Lon Nol army when they were encamped or just took up position. But now, on the Highway One, the Cambodian liberation fighters launched direct attacks on a 60-kilometre stretch of well fortified defence perimeter, covered by heavy artillery fire and built on the basis of an inter-support system. However, right from the outset of the offensive, the Cambodian liberation forces overwhelmed the enemy, overran and smashed a series of enemy fortified strongholds, thus rapidly expanding their victorious position and annihilating the enemy's live forces by big chunks.

The US imperialists have striven to help the Saigon and Phnom Penh puppet to erect a solid inter-support defence perimeter along Highway One in a bid to protect from far distance their lairs Saigon and Phnom Penh, to save the Lon Nol clique from danger and to break the advance of the revolution in Viet Nam and Cambodia. The stunning blows dealt at the lackeys in Kompong Trabec and along Highway One widely breached the flank of the Saigon puppets in the Mekong Delta. The Lon Nol clique can no longer rely upon the help of the Saigon puppets who are defeated everywhere and are unable to save themselves. What help the latter can provide the Lon Nol clique?

Nixon has spared no efforts to realize his policy of using the Indochinese to fight the Indochinese. But this wicked scheme is doomed to bitter failure on all the battlefields in Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. All the armies in the pay of the US, including the Saigon, the Phnom Penh and the Vientiane puppet armies, the Vang Pao's "special forces" and the Thai mercenaries have repeatedly sustained bitter setbacks and heavy losses. They are cornered from all directions. They are desperately warding off the liberation forces' blows and striking feverishly.

The more obstinate and reckless they are, the heavier their defeats will be. The situation on the battlefields has rapidly changed in favour of the peoples and liberation forces in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia who are advancing steadily to ever greater victories.

The Phnom Penh's great bridge blasted off by the CPNLAF

SPRING OFFENSIVE mounts in the US

IN these days of mid-April the tide of popular anti-war agitation is rising everywhere in the United States, according to Western reports.

Nixon current dangerous war escalation has come as great shock to Americans of conscience cherishing justice and freedom, and also as a highly impudent challenge, now that the 1972 Spring Offensive against the criminal war here is being stepped up. And so, Nixon has met with a swift, firm rebuff.

On April 17, antiwar demonstrations erupted simultaneously on either side of the Gulf of San Francisco. Demonstrators, displaying big NFL flags and posters calling Nixon's plan for peace a bomb, surrounded a federal building in San Francisco. Anti-war Viet Nam vets occupied a selective service office while other protesters set fire to a Navy car parked outside. 29 demonstrators were arrested by the police.

In other cities, in Alameda, Calif., Madison, Wisc., Ann Arbor, Mich., demonstrators protested the American authorities for squandering tax money extorted from the people on the dirty war in Viet Nam. They stoned police cars and tarred the building where army reserve officers were being trained. In Alameda alone, the police made 41 arrests.

Students remained the biggest force against the war. Early in the morning of April 17, over half of the students of Columbia U., New York city, boycotted classes. Later, close to 5,000 took to the streets chanting slogans condemning Nixon's war escalation. Students of the San Francisco State C., Stanford U., Calif., Colgate U., N.Y. the U. of Massachusetts, Grinnell C. Ia., Madison C., Indiana U., Connecticut C., Northern Michigan C., the University of Illinois, U. of Florida, and elsewhere, staged demonstrations, hunger strikes, teach-ins, class boycotts, and ransacked recruiting centres, for an end to the bombing, withdrawal of all US forces from Viet Nam, and termination of US support for Nguyen Van Thieu.

A meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was interrupted by a youth who shouted aloud in the middle of a speech by State Secretary William P. Rogers that what the American authorities were saying were just lies, and that they were in fact directing bombing raids at the civilian population, that victory belonged to the Vietnamese people. Nixon himself was halted right on the steps of the Capitol by angry protesters.

The following days saw the protest wave rise with unabated vigour, everywhere in the United States, drawing in broad sections of Americans. *UPI* said on April 20 that demonstrations against increased American involvement in the Viet Nam war were taking place across the country, while *AFP* revealed that class boycotts were spreading fast in many universities, and that by April 21, 169 universities and colleges had taken part in anti-war actions.

In defiance of terror and repression, demonstrations continued to break out in Washington, in cities and on campuses in New York, California, Massachusetts, Iowa, Illinois, Florida, Ohio, North Carolina, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Connecticut, Indiana, Texas, etc. Air Force draft centres, Air Force training camps, research centres, and Air Force bases were surrounded, occupied or ransacked. Draft records were set on fire. Traffic was blocked on many streets. US flags were thrown on the ground and trampled upon. Westmoreland, Army Chief of Staff, was pelted with addled eggs and potatoes.

For four days in a row, from April 17, students of the U. of Maryland demonstrated without interruption and on the evening of April 20, they staged a candle-light march which wound up with a sit-in on the campus with a 3,000 attendance. Tens of thousands of students from 45 universities in New England converged on Boston, where they staged demonstrations and rallies against Nixon's war escalation. Under the impact of the student's militancy, military recruitment was ordered suspended at the U. of Massachusetts, and Dr. Robert Wood, its President, declared: "We find our nation divided and frustrated once more by a blind commitment to a winless war." The presidents of 8 East Coast (Ivy League) private colleges issued a joint statement condemning renewed bombing in North Viet Nam. In Washington, three episcopal bishops conducted a mass inside the Pentagon to protest the war. This was the first anti-war action ever taken inside the building. Women occupied the radio station of the U. of Texas to broadcast protests against Nixon and urge students to rise up against the war. On April 19 in Leonardo, New Jersey, members of the Coalition of Philadelphia Area Peace Groups, among them the Viet Nam Veterans Against War, launched six canoes and a power boat and went to meet a naval ammunition ship to publicize their protest over the stepped-up bombing in North Viet Nam.

Protests against the US war of aggression in Viet Nam were also voiced with vehemence by the political circles. More and more Congress members, including former backers of Nixon, have begun to criticize the US president's policy of war and aggression. Democratic representatives have passed a resolution strongly condemning the use of aircraft in bombing raids on North Viet Nam, and demanding Congress to adopt a bill requiring the complete withdrawal of US forces from Indochina. *AP* commented on April 20 that the resolution was the most resolute antiwar step ever taken by Democratic representatives and the biggest achievement of anti-war forces in the House. Many other members of the Congress, including Senators F. Harris and Gravel, and Representatives B. Abzug and Paul McCloskey, joined anti-war leaders in a statement calling for demonstrations across the States on May 4 to tell Nixon that anti-war spirit remains strong and that the American people do not accept the new bombing raids.

April 22, the peak of the Spring Offensive, saw close to one hundred thousand people taking part in anti-war demonstrations in many places, the biggest of them in New York with 50,000 participants, in San Francisco with 30,000 participants, and in Los Angeles. More than 50,000 demonstrators marched two miles through the heart of Manhattan carrying anti-Nixon banners and placards. One read "Drop Nixon on Haiphong." In Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, a crowd of 30,000 listened by radio telephone to RSVN Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, who, from Paris, reiterated the NFL desire to end the war and restore peace in Viet Nam.

The American people's Spring Offensive is going on against the US war in Viet Nam.

Police car set on fire by San Francisco protesters against Nixon's bombardments of North Viet Nam

FRANCE— The Nantes and its surroundings' council of Railway Workers' Trade-Unions in Nantes and the surrounding areas, in the French CGT, on April 10 passed a petition warmly hailing the Vietnamese people's new gains and condemning the US imperialists genocidal war against the Indochinese people.

GREAT BRITAIN — More than 70 delegates of various trade-unions of miners, transport, engineering, forestry workers, builders, and TV, and cinema technicians, on April 17 took part in a demonstration in London opening a week of action for an end to the US aggressive war in Viet Nam and voicing solidarity with the Vietnamese people's just struggle for independence and freedom.

IN BRIEF

On this occasion, the President of the All-Britain Federation of Engineering Workers' Trade-Unions sent a message to Nixon pressing for a halt to the savage bombing of the Vietnamese people.

INDIA — In a recent statement on US war escalation in Viet Nam, the secretariat of the All-India Trade-Unions' Confederation stressed that the US imperialists' and their satellites' ever heavier reverses in South Viet Nam clearly show that there is no other alternative to the settlement of the Indochina problem than the free choice of the peoples to decide their own destiny.

ICELAND — Many progressive organizations in Reykjavik have been stepping up support Viet Nam activities. They demand the Iceland Government to diplomatically recognize the DRVN and the RSVN PRG. For its part, the Association of Overseas Iceland Students has assembled and sent to their Government a petition in the same vein bearing over 300 signatures.

On learning the South Viet Nam PLAF successive victories, Iceland students in Oslo collected 400 krones for Viet Nam.

JAPAN — Many foreign residents in Japan, among them American, Dutch, French and Latin American nationals, on April 15, paraded under heavy rains in front of the US embassy in Tokyo. The marchers put up a 2m-high wooden cross bearing the words: "The Christians curse the US imperialists!" and slogans "Down with Nixon!" They handed in a petition to the US Ambassador for a total pull-out of American aggressor troops from Viet Nam, an end to Vietnamization and the cessation of the bombing of the DRVN.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION